

Please replace original Claim 16 with the following claim:

A2
Sub B

16. (Amended) A method for treating a medical condition of the type that is characterized by the destruction of articular cartilage in a mammalian subject, which method comprises administering to the subject having said condition a therapeutically effective amount of a small molecule having a molecular weight of under 2000 grams/mole, wherein the small molecule exhibits an aggrecanase IC₅₀ of less than about 20 nM, said aggrecanase IC₅₀ measured by an aggrecanase chondrocyte assay.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE - DO NOT ENTER

In the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph at page 1, lines 3-8, under the section heading "Technical Field" and replace such deleted section with the following section:

Technical Field

This application claims priority benefits of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/148,464 filed August 12, 1999.

The current invention concerns carboxylic acid hydroxyamide derivatives that are highly potent inhibitors of aggrecanase proteolytic activity and that inhibit other enzymes implicated in joint disease, particularly matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) and the a disintegrin and metalloproteinases (ADAMs or reprolyns). The current invention also relates to synthetic precursors to the carboxylic acid hydroxyamide inhibitors, to pharmaceutical compositions, and to methods of treatment, especially the treatment of osteoarthritis.

In the Claims:

Please replace original Claim 16 with the following claim:

16. (Amended) A method for treating a medical condition of the type that is characterized by the destruction of articular cartilage in a mammalian subject, which method comprises administering to the subject having[,] said condition a therapeutically effective amount of a small molecule having a molecular weight of under 2000 grams/mole, wherein the small molecule exhibits an aggrecanase IC₅₀ of less than about 20 nM, said aggrecanase IC₅₀ measured by an aggrecanase chondrocyte assay.